

less state in great numbers, and die on shore. They are seen at sea in the Mozambique and Indian Ocean, and are very abundant off the banks near the Seychelles. When driven ashore, they are in so emaciated a state as to dry up without undergoing putrefaction.

XXVI.—*Note on Aquila barthelemyi, Jaubert.*

By J. H. GURNEY.

IN the spring of 1857, I was informed by my friend M. Jules Verreaux that he could procure me two living specimens of *Aquila barthelemyi*, which had been recently taken from the nest on the Sainte Victoire Mountains, in the south of France—the locality especially designated as the head-quarters of this Eagle by Messrs. Jaubert and Barthélemy-Lapommeraye, in their work entitled ‘Richesses Ornithologiques du Midi de la France.’

Having requested M. Verreaux to obtain for me these young Eagles, they were accordingly forwarded soon afterwards; but on their arrival I could perceive nothing to distinguish them from ordinary Golden Eagles of the same age. One of them had been injured in the wing; and as this accident much detracted from its beauty as a living specimen, in February 1858 I had it killed, mounted, and placed in the Norwich Museum. This bird, on dissection, proved a male, and agreed both in size and colour with male birds of the ordinary *Aquila chrysaëtos* of the same age, being entirely destitute of the white scapular spots by which *Aquila barthelemyi* is ordinarily distinguished. The surviving bird (which I believe to be also a male) has remained alive in my possession to the present time; but I could never detect anything in its plumage different from that of the Golden Eagle until April of the present year, when, on visiting the bird after some months’ absence from home, I found, to my pleasure and surprise, that the first scapular feathers on both sides of the body had become snow-white, exactly as depicted in the plate given in Messrs. Jaubert and Barthélemy-Lapommeraye’s work, and closely resembling (allowance being made for the difference of size in the two birds) the white scapular spots which occur in most specimens of *Aquila pennata*.

I subsequently requested Mr. Reeve, the able and intelligent curator of the Norwich Museum, to examine the somewhat extensive series of Golden Eagles in that collection, for the purpose of ascertaining whether similar white scapular spots exist in any of the specimens there deposited. Mr. Reeve informs me that in one example only has he detected this peculiarity, viz. in an immature male bird from southern Algeria. This appears to prove that although my bird was so long in acquiring the white scapular spots, they are sometimes assumed much earlier, and confirms the statement in Messrs. Jaubert and Barthélemy-Lapommeraye's work, that, in some instances at least, these distinctive marks are apparent in *Aquila barthelemyi* immediately on quitting the nest. The Algerian specimen above mentioned, and a German one which is alluded to by the authors of 'Les Richesses Ornithologiques,' are, so far as I know, the only specimens of *Aquila barthelemyi* which are recorded as having been obtained out of France.

It seems, therefore, that the title of this singular race of Eagles to be considered as specifically distinct from *Aquila chrysaëtos* merits careful consideration and further observation from those ornithologists who are interested in the study of the birds of prey.

XXVII.—*Notes on the Ground-Parrot of New Zealand* (*Strigops habroptilus*). By JULIUS HAAST, of Canterbury, N. Z.*

AMONGST the remarkable birds of New Zealand, the *Strigops habroptilus* (called "Kakapo" by the Maories, and "Ground-Parrot" by the settlers) occupies a prominent place, not only on account of its size, but likewise on account of its mode of life and its manner of forming an habitation. Very little is known about this inhabitant of our forests; so that the communication of some observations which I made during my last trip to the west coast may be considered interesting. During several years I have travelled in the interior of New Zealand, but not until

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